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PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

I.—THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

Ueber Entwicklung des Hirnmantels in der Thierreihe. Dr. EDINGER.
XIII Wanderversammlung südwestdeutscher Neurologen und
Irrenärzte zu Freiburg i. Br., Juni, 1888.

Abstract of proceedings in Neurolog. Centralbl. 1888, No. 14, by Dr. L. Laquer. Dr. Edinger showed preparations illustrating the development of the forebrain in the animal series. The brain mantel only gradually reaches the high development which it attains in the mammals, but there is not an unbroken series from the lowest to the higher forms. The purely epithelial brain mantel of the bony fish, the cyclostomes, and selachians, was demonstrated. Between these and the simple amphibian brain there are no intermediate forms. The fundamental form of the amphibian brain is to be found among the reptiles, but among the reptiles there appears, with the beginnings of the cortex, the earliest form of the brain from which that of the birds and mammals has been developed. In reptiles first appears the Ammonsformation and the associated Fornix. While the mantel undergoes all these changes, the position and structure of the ganglia of the trunk remain in general the same through the entire series, decreasing, however, in relative importance with the increase in the mantel. Commissural fibres and fibres connecting parts of the forebrain with other regions, are found in all cases.

Untersuchungen über die vergleichende Anatomie des Gehirns. 1. *Das Vorderhirn.* L. EDINGER. (Abh. d. Senckenbergischen naturf. Gesellsch. 1888, p. 91 bis 119, 4 Tafeln.) Abstracted by Obersteiner in the Centralbl. f. Physiol. No. 12, 1888.

In the bony fish the brain mantle covers the basal ganglia in such a manner as to be usually overlooked. A cortex with nerve cells is wanting in all fish and amphibia, and in the reptiles the first form of the cortex with ganglia appears. In the reptiles, too, appear the first fibres of a corona radiata. In birds the basal ganglia are developed to an extent not found in any other group, the cortex remaining but little developed and first reaching its full significance in the mammals. From the basal ganglia (the nucleus caudatus and putamen) arises the basal frontal tract (basale Vorderhirnbündel) which runs in part to the optic thalamus, and in part to portions further caudad.

Anatomy of the Brain and Spinal Cord. J. RYLAND WHITAKER.
Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone, 1887. 8vo, pp. 135.

The title of a book like the one in question does not at the present day give a clear notion of what it may contain. Some years back,

the gross anatomy was almost exclusively meant by the term anatomy of the central nervous system, and to this gross anatomy there was now and then added a little on the tracts in the cord, and the description of one or two frontal sections of the brain and cord. Beyond this, the descriptions applied mainly to the surface of the organs, though not uncommonly something on the development of the brain was appended. Such a presentation of the subject answered the purpose very well when the anatomy of the central nervous system was but little developed. To-day, however, it has left this earlier condition far behind. The student wants to know, and must know, the finer anatomy of these organs, and the gross anatomy should be presented only in so far as the parts described and the names given are found to be really significant in the light of existing facts. For example, a clear idea of the arrangement of the parts about the lateral ventricles and the interbrain cannot be gotten unless the development of the brain is most carefully considered, and the changes from the primary to the secondary conditions are traced in ample detail. It is on such a knowledge only that a good understanding of the finer anatomy of this region can rest, and the same is essentially true for all the other regions of the nervous centres. Supposing these views to be correct, then a modern discussion of the anatomy of the central nervous system should contain somewhere in it a careful account of the embryology of the brain and cord, as a necessary corner-stone.

Whitaker's book does not recognize this aspect of the case, for its discussion of the embryology is very casual, and it goes along as though there was very little outside of its covers, although the allusions to the finer anatomy are scanty and often antiquated. Looked at in another way, however, it is a handy volume, containing rather more than one gets in the brain and cord chapters in the anatomical text-books, and the order of presentation is good. There are numerous plates, some of them original, the one showing the distribution of the tracts of the cord being specially useful. A very good feature, too, is the tabular arrangement, showing in a general way the representation of the parts seen in one cross-section in the section at another level. As may therefore be seen, the book will be useful where the gross anatomy of the brain and cord is to be studied, but for purposes beyond this its value is limited.

Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences. Edited by C. E. SAJOURS, M. D., and seventy associate editors. Issue of 1888, 5 volumes. F. A. Davis, Philadelphia and London.

An annual review of the progress of the medical sciences that fills five volumes, more than 2500 pages, and is liberally illustrated, certainly calls for remark. According to the preface, the interest of the Annual is in clinical data, and it is designed to be specially useful to the medical practitioner. Since through the chief editor it is intimately connected with the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, one is not surprised to see that a large number of the articles are from men residing in that city, more than half the number of associate editors being Philadelphians. The articles are grouped under some seventy heads. They are not arranged always in the order which might be anticipated, but this is explained by the very limited time in which the work was put through the press. The work is more than a year-book in its plan, for many of the